

REMARKS

The application has been amended to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

The specification is amended to add section headings.

Claims 1-19 were previously pending in the application. New claim 20 is added. Therefore, claims 1-20 are presented for consideration.

Claims 1-5, 8, 9 and 11-19 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by GILL 5,012,225. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is amended to clarify that the element surrounding the zone provided for deactivation is rigid.

By way of example, as disclosed on page 3, lines 4-9, the rigidity of the rigid part is such that the repeated bending movements of the flexible substrate are prevented or limited in the zone or zones where the short-circuits have been or will be established. The electrical short-circuit links are thus protected against breakage.

The Official Action indicates element 7 of GILL as being a rigidified part.

However, element 7 of GILL is not a rigid element.

Rather, column 4, lines 9-21 of GILL describe element 7 as a deactivating layer which employs an abrasive substance to wear away portions of the contacting etched circuit layer. This

may be accomplished by providing a deactivating layer 7 comprised of pumice impregnating a heat seal adhesive. Such deactivation layer abrades portions of the contacting etched circuit layer by being flexible, that is, by moving and flexing as the remainder of the layers move to physically damage a portion of the etched layer. The same passage of GILL further provides that the element that causes physical damage to the etched circuit layer may also be appropriate chemical means.

In contrast, as set forth above, the rigid element of the present invention is used to protect the electrical short-circuit links against breakage. GILL does not disclose a rigid element that is used to prevent breakage of the electrical short-circuit links. Rather, as set forth above, GILL teaches a flexible layer that uses the flexibility to create movement of the abrasive layer 7 to abrade and damage the etched circuit.

As the reference does not disclose that which is recited, the anticipation rejection is not viable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 2-5, 8, 9 and 11-19 depend from claim 1 and further define the invention and are also believed to define over GILL.

Claims 6, 7 and 10 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over GILL. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 6, 7 and 10 depend from claim 1 and further define the invention and are believed patentable over GILL at least for depending from an allowable independent claim.

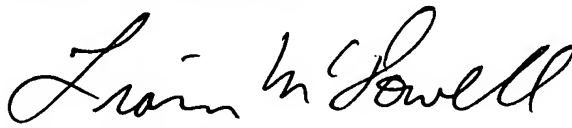
New claim 20 is added. Support for claim 20 can be found in Figure 4 and on page 6, lines 1-16 and lines 30-35. Claim 20 is also directed to a rigid part and is believed to define over GILL at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

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